

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer covering comprising:

a laminate sheet adapted to cover an object surface, such as a surface of a building or other solid object and to support an applied coating, the ~~multi-layer covering comprising~~ laminate sheet having:

a fabric layer defining an outer surface of the multi-layer covering;

a non-fabric backing layer bonded to an inner surface of the fabric layer and coextensive with the fabric layer;

an adhesive disposed on an inner surface of the backing layer; and

a removable protective layer covering the adhesive on the inner surface of the backing layer;

wherein the protective layer is removable to allow the multi-layer covering to be adhered to and cover the object surface, such that the outer surface of the multi-layer covering provides a smooth outer surface for supporting the applied coating; and

wherein the fabric layer is sufficiently porous to allow the applied coating to penetrate to the backing layer and the backing layer has a series of through holes adapted to allow the applied coating to penetrate through the backing layer to the object surface.

35. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the holes in the backing layer comprise a grid of blister holes punched through the backing layer.

36. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 35 wherein the holes have a diameter of 0.5mm to 10mm and the holes are spaced apart by 10mm to 300mm.

37. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 36 wherein the holes have a diameter of 0.6mm to 5mm and the holes are spaced apart by 10mm to 50mm.

38. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein a grid of through holes is defined in at least the backing layer and the fabric layer.

39. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 38 wherein the holes have a diameter of 0.5mm to 10mm and the holes are spaced apart by 10mm to 300mm.

40. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 39 wherein the holes have a diameter of 0.6mm to 5mm and the holes are spaced apart by 10mm to 50mm.

42. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the fabric layer is formed from a woven fabric having a thickness from 2mm to 20mm, the woven fabric being made from fibres or strands and wherein either gaps between fibres in the woven fabric are defined in the range of 0.3mm to 3.0mm or holes having a diameter of 0.3mm to 3.0mm are formed in the woven fabric.

43. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 42 wherein the fabric layer has a thickness of 2mm to 5mm.

44. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the fabric layer is a flexible mesh layer that defines a spacing between strands of the mesh of 3mm to 20mm.

45. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the fabric layer is a non-woven fabric, such as a batt, having a thickness from 2mm to 20mm, the non-woven fabric being made from fibres or strands and wherein either gaps between fibres or strands in the non-woven fabric are defined in the range of 0.3mm to 3.0mm or holes having a diameter of 0.3mm to 3.0mm are formed in the non-woven fabric.

46. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the fabric layer is made from a plastics material such as fibre glass or PET fibres.

47. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer is a metallic reflective foil.

48. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer includes a metallic reflective foil and building paper.

49. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer is a building paper.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer includes two metallic reflective foils sandwiching a sheet of building paper.

53. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an object surface such as a wall, ceiling, roof, or floor comprising the steps of:

providing a multi-layer covering comprising a laminate sheet, the ~~multi-layer covering~~ laminate sheet including:

a porous fabric layer defining an outer surface of the multi-layer covering;

a non-fabric backing layer having a series of through holes, the backing layer being bonded to an inner surface of the fabric layer and coextensive with the fabric layer;

an adhesive disposed on an inner surface of the backing layer; and

a removable protective layer covering the adhesive on the inner surface of the backing layer;

removing the removable protective layer of the multi-layer covering;

applying the multi-layer covering to the object surface, using the adhesive to retain the multi-layer covering in position, so that substantially all of the object surface is

covered by both the fabric layer and the backing layer and so that the outer surface of the multi-layer covering provides a smooth outer surface; and

applying one or more coatings to the smooth outer surface of the multi-layer covering, such that the applied coating penetrates through the fabric layer and through the holes of the backing layer to the object surface.

54. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein the step of applying one or more coatings comprises applying one or more coatings of acrylic render or paint.

55. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein the multi-layer covering is applied to a wall and the coating is a render or paint applied with a brush, roller, or spray gun.

56. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54 wherein the coating includes cement and/or sand particles and an acrylic polymer binder and wherein the sand and cement particles are sufficiently small to penetrate into the gaps between the fibres of the fabric layer and the holes in the backing layer to reach the object surface so that the covering is saturated with acrylic render or paint.

57. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein the covering is applied to a roof and the coating is an adhesive or sealant.

58. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein the covering is applied to a floor and the coating is tiling cement, grout, or adhesive.